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EXAMINER	
CUTLER, ALBERT H	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/710,762	CHANG, SHAN-WEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALBERT H. CUTLER	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 April 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13 and 15-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-13 and 15-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to communication filed on April 11, 2008. Claims 1-13 and 15-27 are pending in the application and have been examined by the Examiner.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 11, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 and 15-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baron (US 2002/0186316).

Consider claim 20, Baron teaches:

A method for adjusting an image exposure period (figure 5), comprising:

detecting when a force is applied to an element (spring-loaded pin, 400, figures 4A and 4B) disposed outside of a housing of an image capture device (100, see figure 4A) from a surface other than a tripod (See figure 4A, paragraphs 0013 and 0014. The top of the spring-loaded pin (400) is near or below the top surface of the quick release plate (200) when not attached to a support (108). The quick release plate (200) may be incorporated into the camera itself (i.e. as part of the housing), paragraph 0012. The support (108) can be a monopod, shoulder stocks, car window supports, or other devices to stabilize the camera, paragraph 0011. See also step 502, figure 5, and paragraph 0015.);

generating a trigger signal in response to the image capturing device being substantially stationary (The device is able to detect the motion of the spring-loaded pin (400) signaling the use of a support (108, i.e. detecting that the camera is connected to a support, and thus substantially stationary), paragraphs 0013-0014.); and

adjusting an image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (The image exposure period is lengthened in response to the trigger signal, paragraph 0015, figure 5, step 506.).

Consider claim 21, and as applied to claim 20, Baron further teaches:

actuating a trigger in response to an image capturing device being substantially stationary (i.e. connected to a support, paragraphs 0013-0014) and generating the

trigger signal in response to the trigger being actuated (A mode change is triggered in response to the trigger being actuated, paragraphs 0013-0014.).

Consider claim 22, and as applied to claim 20, Baron further teaches lengthening the image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (506, figure 5, paragraph 0015).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baron (US 2002/0186316).

Consider claim 24, Baron teaches:

A trigger system (figures 1, 4A and 4B) configured to be disposed in a housing of an image capture device (camera or other image capture device, 100, figure 1, paragraph 0011), the trigger system comprising:

a supporting base configured to be disposed in a housing of an image capture device (Figure 1 shows a supporting base recessed in the image capture device (104), and containing a support sensor (104). Figures 4A and 4B show a supporting base in the form of a quick release plate (200). The quick release plate (200) may be incorporated into the camera itself (i.e. as part of the housing), paragraph 0012.);

a first movable element (spring-loaded pin, 400, figures 4A and 4B) having a first elastic element resiliently disposed against the supporting base and configured to extend outside of the housing of the image capture device (See figure 4A, paragraphs 0013 and 0014. The top of the spring-loaded pin (400) is near or below the top surface of the quick release plate (200) when not attached to a support (108). Therefore, the spring (i.e. elastic element) of the spring-loaded pin resiliently disposes the first movable element against the supporting base.);

a second movable element having a second elastic element resiliently disposed against the supporting base and configured to be disposed within a recess of the housing of the image capture device (See figure 1. Baron teaches that a sensor (104) can be positioned within a recess on the camera in order to detect the presence of a bolt, indicating attachment to a tripod, paragraph 0011. Baron teaches that it is also possible to detect the presence of a support device mechanically, for instance with a spring-loaded pin (i.e. movable rod), paragraph 0013. Therefore, the spring (i.e. elastic

element) of a spring-loaded pin resiliently disposes the second movable element against the supporting base.);

a switch for generating a trigger signal when a force is applied to either the first movable element or the second movable element (A mechanical connector, such as the spring-loaded pin, throws a switch within the camera, generating a mode change signal, when a force is applied, paragraphs 0013-0014.); and

a control circuit configured to detect the trigger signal and to adjust an exposure period of a photosensor of the image capture device (The image exposure period is lengthened in response to the trigger signal, paragraph 0015, figure 5.).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include both the first and second movable rods taught by Baron for the benefit of improving the versatility of the camera by enabling the detection of multiple types of connected supports including those which extend within the camera housing and those which connect to the outside of the camera housing.

Consider claim 25, and as applied to claim 24 above, Baron does not explicitly teach that the first movable element and second movable element are formed together.

However, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form the first and second elements together because they supply the same signal, and forming both together would reduce the amount of parts.

Consider claim 26, and as applied to claim 24 above, Baron further teaches that the first movable element and the second movable element are disposed independent

of each other (See figures 1, 4A and 4B. The first movable element (400, figure 4A) is disposed outside the camera housing. The second movable element (104, figure 1) is disposed within the camera housing.).

Consider claim 27, and as applied to claim 24 above, Baron further teaches that the first elastic and second elastic elements are springs (see claim 24 rationale).

9. Claims 1-13, 15-19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baron (US 2002/0186316) in view of Hirata et al. (US 6,873,367).

Consider claim 1, Baron teaches:

An apparatus (camera or other image capture device, 100, figure 1, paragraph 0011) comprising:

a trigger (spring-loaded pin, 400, figures 4A and 4B) having an element disposed outside of the housing configured to detect a surface other than a tripod (See figure 4A, paragraphs 0013 and 0014. The top of the spring-loaded pin (400) is near or below the top surface of the quick release plate (200) when not attached to a support (108). The quick release plate (200) may be incorporated into the camera itself (i.e. as part of the housing), paragraph 0012. The support (108) can be a monopod, shoulder stocks, car window supports, or other devices to stabilize the camera, paragraph 0011.), for detecting an applied force to the element outside of the housing and for generating a trigger signal while the housing is substantially stationary (The device is able to detect

the motion of the spring-loaded pin (400) signaling the use of a support (108, i.e. detecting that the camera is connected to a support, and thus substantially stationary), paragraphs 0013-0014.), wherein the image generator adjusts an image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (The image exposure period is lengthened in response to the trigger signal, paragraph 0015, figure 5.).

However, Baron does not explicitly teach that the camera comprises a housing, a lens formed on the housing for inputting light, a photosensor for sensing the inputted light, or an image generator for generating an image based on the sensed light.

Hirata et al. similarly teaches a camera (figure 1) which detects the presence of a support member (See figure 5, column 6, lines 28-45. The camera has a detection switch (33) for detecting connection/disconnection of and external unit.).

However, in addition to the teachings of Baron, Hirata et al. teaches that the camera (figure 1) comprises a housing (body, 20), a lens (image sensing lens, 21) formed on the housing (20) for inputting light (see figure 1, column 6, lines 8-9), a photosensor for sensing the inputted light (Images are sensed, column 6, lines 24-27.), and an image generator for generating an image based on the sensed light (A photosensor generates an image based on sensed light, column 1, lines 15-19.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the above-mentioned camera components taught by Hirata et al. in the camera taught by Baron for the benefit of supplying the demand for increasingly popular electronic cameras (Hirata et al., column 1, lines 15-19).

Consider claim 2, and as applied to claim 1 above, Baron further teaches that the trigger comprises a movable rod (400) for triggering a switch ("switch") to generate a trigger signal while a force is applied (see paragraph 0014), and an elastic member for returning the movable rod to stop the triggering of the switch (The trigger is a "spring-loaded pin", and a spring is an elastic member, paragraph 0014, figures 4A and 4B.), while the force is not applied on the movable rod (Figure 4A shows that the movable rod (400) extends beyond the lower portion of the quick release plate (200) when a force is not applied.).

Consider claim 3, and as applied to claim 2 above, Baron further teaches that the movable rod (400) is extended out of the housing while no force is applied (see figure 4A), but is pushed into the housing while the force is applied (see figure 4B, paragraph 0014).

Consider claim 4, and as applied to claim 2 above, Baron further teaches a second movable rod positioned within a recess on the housing (See figure 1. Baron teaches that a sensor (104) can be positioned within a recess on the camera in order to detect the presence of a bolt, paragraph 0011. Baron teaches that it is also possible to detect the presence of a support device mechanically, for instance with a spring-loaded pin (i.e. movable rod), paragraph 0013.).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include both the first and second movable rods taught by Baron for

the benefit of improving the versatility of the camera by enabling the detection of multiple types of connected supports including those which extend within the camera housing and those which connect to the outside of the camera housing.

Consider claim 5, and as applied to claim 1 above, Baron further teaches that the image exposure period of the photosensor is prolonged in response to the trigger signal (506, figure 5, paragraph 0015).

Consider claim 6, and as applied to claim 1 above, Baron does not explicitly teach a photosensor.

However, Hirata et al. further teaches that the photosensor is a charge-coupled device (CCD, column 1, lines 15-19).

Consider claim 7, Baron teaches:

An image-capturing system (figures 1-4B) comprising:

a digital camera (camera or other image capture device, 100, figure 1, paragraph 0011) comprising:

a trigger (spring-loaded pin, 400, figures 4A and 4B) having a first element disposed outside of the housing for detecting an applied force to the first element from a surface other than a tripod (See figure 4A, paragraphs 0013 and 0014. The top of the spring-loaded pin (400) is near or below the top surface of the quick release plate (200) when not attached to a support (108). The quick release plate (200) may be

incorporated into the camera itself (i.e. as part of the housing), paragraph 0012. The support (108) can be a monopod, shoulder stocks, car window supports, or other devices to stabilize the camera, paragraph 0011.) and a second element disposed in a recess of the housing for detecting an applied force to the second element from a tripod (See figure 1. Baron teaches that a sensor (104) can be positioned within a recess on the camera in order to detect the presence of a bolt, indicating attachment to a tripod, paragraph 0011. Baron teaches that it is also possible to detect the presence of a support device mechanically, for instance with a spring-loaded pin (i.e. movable rod), paragraph 0013.), the trigger generating a trigger signal while the housing is substantially fixed (The device is able to detect the motion of the spring-loaded pin (400) signaling the use of a support (108, i.e. detecting that the camera is connected to a support, and thus substantially fixed), paragraphs 0013-0014.), wherein the image generator adjusts an image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (The image exposure period is lengthened in response to the trigger signal, paragraph 0015, figure 5.); and

a tripod for fixing the digital camera ("tripod" or "support", 108, figures 1-4B, paragraphs 0011-0013) comprising:

a trigger end (see 106, figure 1) for triggering the second element (104) disposed in the recess of the housing of the digital camera (100) for generating a trigger signal as the tripod is engaged with the digital camera (see figure 1, paragraph 0011).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include both the first and second movable rods taught by Baron for

the benefit of improving the versatility of the camera by enabling the detection of multiple types of connected supports including those which extend within the camera housing and those which connect to the outside of the camera housing.

However, Baron does not explicitly teach that the camera comprises a housing, a lens formed on the housing for inputting light, a photosensor for sensing the inputted light, or an image generator for generating an image based on the sensed light.

Hirata et al. similarly teaches a camera (figure 1) which detects the presence of a support member (See figure 5, column 6, lines 28-45. The camera has a detection switch (33) for detecting connection/disconnection of and external unit.).

However, in addition to the teachings of Baron, Hirata et al. teaches that the camera (figure 1) comprises a housing (body, 20), a lens (image sensing lens, 21) formed on the housing (20) for inputting light (see figure 1, column 6, lines 8-9), a photosensor for sensing the inputted light (Images are sensed, column 6, lines 24-27.), and an image generator for generating an image based on the sensed light (A photosensor generates an image based on sensed light, column 1, lines 15-19.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the above-mentioned camera components taught by Hirata et al. in the camera taught by Baron for the benefit of supplying the demand for increasingly popular electronic cameras (Hirata et al., column 1, lines 15-19).

Consider claim 8, and as applied to claim 7 above, Baron further teaches that the trigger comprises a movable rod (400) for triggering a switch ("switch") to generate a

trigger signal while a force is applied (see paragraph 0014), and an elastic member for returning the movable rod to stop the triggering of the switch (The trigger is a "spring-loaded pin", and a spring is an elastic member, paragraph 0014, figures 4A and 4B.), while the force is not applied on the movable rod (Figure 4A shows that the movable rod (400) extends beyond the lower portion of the quick release plate (200) when a force is not applied.).

Consider claim 9, and as applied to claim 8 above, Baron further teaches that the movable rod is positioned within the recess on the housing (See figure 1. Baron teaches that a sensor (104) can be positioned within a recess on the camera in order to detect the presence of a bolt, paragraph 0011. Baron teaches that it is also possible to detect the presence of a support device mechanically, for instance with a spring-loaded pin (i.e. movable rod), paragraph 0013.).

Consider claim 10, and as applied to claim 7 above, Baron further teaches that the image exposure period of the photosensor is prolonged in response to the trigger signal (506, figure 5, paragraph 0015).

Consider claim 11, and as applied to claim 7 above, Baron does not explicitly teach a photosensor.

However, Hirata et al. further teaches that the photosensor is a charge-coupled device (CCD, column 1, lines 15-19).

Consider claim 12, Baron teaches:

An apparatus (camera or other image capture device, 100, figure 1, paragraph 0011) comprising:

a trigger (spring-loaded pin, 400, figures 4A and 4B) having a first element (400) disposed outside of a housing of the apparatus for detecting an applied force to the element outside of the housing from a surface other than a tripod (See figure 4A, paragraphs 0013 and 0014. The top of the spring-loaded pin (400) is near or below the top surface of the quick release plate (200) when not attached to a support (108). The quick release plate (200) may be incorporated into the camera itself (i.e. as part of the housing), paragraph 0012. The support (108) can be a monopod, shoulder stocks, car window supports, or other devices to stabilize the camera, paragraph 0011.) and for generating a trigger signal while the apparatus is stationary (The device is able to detect the motion of the spring-loaded pin (400) signaling the use of a support (108, i.e. detecting that the camera is connected to a support, and thus substantially stationary), paragraphs 0013-0014.), wherein the image generator adjusts an image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (The image exposure period is lengthened in response to the trigger signal, paragraph 0015, figure 5.).

However, Baron does not explicitly teach that the camera comprises an image generator for generating an image.

Hirata et al. similarly teaches a camera (figure 1) which detects the presence of a support member (See figure 5, column 6, lines 28-45. The camera has a detection switch (33) for detecting connection/disconnection of and external unit.).

However, in addition to the teachings of Baron, Hirata et al. teaches that the camera (figure 1) comprises an image generator for generating an image based on the sensed light (Images are sensed, column 6, lines 24-27. A photosensor generates an image based on sensed light, column 1, lines 15-19.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the image generator taught by Hirata et al. in the camera taught by Baron for the benefit of supplying the demand for increasingly popular electronic cameras (Hirata et al., column 1, lines 15-19).

Consider claim 13, and as applied to claim 12 above, Baron further teaches that the trigger comprises a second element disposed in a recess of the housing capable of generating the trigger signal in response to the apparatus being connected to a tripod (See figure 1. Baron teaches that a sensor (104) can be positioned within a recess on the camera in order to detect the presence of a bolt, indicating attachment to a tripod, paragraph 0011. Baron teaches that it is also possible to detect the presence of a support device mechanically, for instance with a spring-loaded pin (i.e. movable rod), paragraph 0013.).

Consider claim 15, and as applied to claim 12 above, Baron further teaches that the trigger is capable of generating the trigger signal in response to a user actuating the trigger (If the user connects the camera to a support, the trigger is actuated and generates a trigger signal, paragraphs 0011, 0013 and 0014.).

Consider claim 16, and as applied to claim 12 above, Baron further teaches:

means for actuating the trigger (400) in response to an applied force and means for stopping trigger actuation in response to the force being removed (The trigger is a "spring-loaded pin", and a spring is an elastic member, paragraph 0014, figures 4A and 4B. Figure 4A shows that the movable rod (400) extends beyond the lower portion of the quick release plate (200) when a force is not applied. Figure 4B shows that the movable rod (400) moves up within the quick release plate (200) when a support (108) is attached, thus actuating the trigger.).

Consider claim 17, and as applied to claim 12 above, Baron further teaches that the triggering signal comprises a voltage (paragraph 0013).

Consider claim 18, and as applied to claim 13 above, Baron further teaches that the image generator lengthens an image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (see 506, figure 5, paragraph 0015).

Consider claim 19, Baron teaches:

An apparatus (camera or other image capture device, 100, figure 1, paragraph 0011) comprising:

Means (spring-loaded pin, 400, figures 4A and 4B) for detecting a force applied to an outside of a housing of the apparatus (camera, 100) from a surface other than a tripod (See figure 4A, paragraphs 0013 and 0014. The top of the spring-loaded pin

(400) is near or below the top surface of the quick release plate (200) when not attached to a support (108). The quick release plate (200) may be incorporated into the camera itself (i.e. as part of the housing), paragraph 0012. The support (108) can be a monopod, shoulder stocks, car window supports, or other devices to stabilize the camera, paragraph 0011.) and for generating a trigger signal to indicate that the apparatus is substantially stationary (The device is able to detect the motion of the spring-loaded pin (400) signaling the use of a support (108, i.e. detecting that the camera is connected to a support, and thus substantially stationary), paragraphs 0013-0014.), wherein the means for generating an image adjusts an image exposure period in response to the trigger signal (The image exposure period is lengthened in response to the trigger signal, paragraph 0015, figure 5.).

However, Baron does not explicitly teach that the camera comprises means for generating an image.

Hirata et al. similarly teaches a camera (figure 1) which detects the presence of a support member (See figure 5, column 6, lines 28-45. The camera has a detection switch (33) for detecting connection/disconnection of and external unit.).

However, in addition to the teachings of Baron, Hirata et al. teaches that the camera (figure 1) comprises means for generating an image (Images are sensed, column 6, lines 24-27. A photosensor generates an image based on sensed light, column 1, lines 15-19.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the means for generating an image taught by Hirata et al. in the camera

taught by Baron for the benefit of supplying the demand for increasingly popular electronic cameras (Hirata et al., column 1, lines 15-19).

Consider claim 23, and as applied to claim 1 above, Baron teaches that the apparatus includes a camera (paragraph 0011), but does not explicitly teach that the camera is a digital camera.

Hirata teaches that the camera is a digital camera (Images are sensed, column 6, lines 24-27. A photosensor generates an image based on sensed light, column 1, lines 15-19.).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Masuda (US 6,687,458) teaches detecting whether or not a support member is connected to a camera (see figure 4).

12. Wheeler (US 5,406,348) teaches of detecting whether or not a tripod is mounted to a camera and adjusting the exposure time accordingly (see figure 4).

13. Kai et al. (US 5,729,770) teaches of multiple support detection triggers on the same camera housing (see M and L, figure 1).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALBERT H. CUTLER whose telephone number is (571)270-1460. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc-Yen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AC
06/13/2008

/Ngoc-Yen T. VU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622